

# ASRS REPORT

## ARIZONA STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM

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This report provides a briefing of news and notices important to our members, retirees and employer partners, as well as other interested parties. It is produced by the ASRS on a periodic basis and posted to the ASRS website. If you would like to receive an email notice when the next issue is posted, and you are not already on our email list, please contact us at [weeklyreport@azasrs.gov](mailto:weeklyreport@azasrs.gov), and provide your name, email address, telephone number and title and organization, if applicable.

## ASRS News

### New Contribution Rates take effect July 1

Contribution rates for the 2007-08 fiscal year paid by active members and their employers will increase slightly beginning July 1.

Based on an annual actuarial analysis of the defined benefit plan, health insurance premium benefit and long term disability programs, the contribution rate will increase from 9.1 percent this year to 9.6 percent beginning July 1, 2007. Because the ASRS pension plan is a match plan, the employee and the employer each pay the contribution rate.

	ASRS Contribution Rate Fiscal 2007-08 (Effective July 1, 2007)		
	Retirement Pension & Health Insurance Benefit	Long Term Disability Income Plan	Total
Employee	9.1%	0.50%	9.60%
Employer	9.1%	0.50%	9.60%

## PBI Update

The ASRS Permanent Benefit Increase (PBI) benefit provides for increases to retirees' benefit checks when excess earnings accumulate on the ASRS fund.

ASRS retirees can expect to continue to receive all past Permanent Benefit Increases but there will not be an addition to the PBI portion of benefits for the 2007-08 fiscal year, which begins with the July 2007 check.

This is consistent with the forecasts that have been made during the past several years. Although investment returns have continued to be strong, they will likely not be sufficient to build up additional PBIs for several more years. Because there is no addition of the PBI, there will be no addition to the separate Enhanced Permanent Benefit Increase program, which provides for additional increases generated from earnings on the PBI pool.

Retirees will receive a special notice with additional details in their July checks and additional information is also available on the ASRS website.

## ASRS Legislation

The 48<sup>th</sup> Session of the Arizona Legislature is winding down, and there are still a number of bills that deal with retirement issues making their way through the legislative process.

You can view a summary of the bills that have been passed, those still under consideration, and those that appear to have failed by viewing the ASRS Bill Tracker, a document posted on our website and updated weekly.

Information is also available on the state legislature's website, [www.azleg.gov](http://www.azleg.gov). At the conclusion of the session, the ASRS will compile a 2007 Legislative Summary that will detail new laws that come out of this session, and when they will take effect.

## Educational meetings offered to inform, assist members

The Member Services Division of the ASRS conducts educational meetings available to all members. Whether you're newly hired and want to learn about the benefits available to you, or you're ready to retire and want assistance filling out your paperwork and making annuity selections, the ASRS has a meeting for you.

### Know Your Benefits

This meeting is especially beneficial to new members. You'll learn about the many benefits of belonging to the Arizona State Retirement System, including a history and overview of the ASRS, how your pension is calculated and how to maximize your future benefit, member responsibilities, disability and survivor benefits, options should you leave ASRS employment, and more. Also covered will be the Service Purchase benefit, in which a member may purchase, under certain circumstances, time they worked under other qualified employer plans.

### Getting Ready to Retire

This meeting is vital for members who are planning to retire within a year. You'll learn about your pension benefit and how it's calculated, options for retiree health insurance and other benefits, return to work options and more. Members who register for this meeting will receive a personal benefit estimate and assistance in filing out the proper paperwork.

Visit our website and click on the "Calendars" section to see a full listing of meetings taking place in Phoenix, Tucson and throughout the state at various locations. Reservations are required and can be made by calling our Member Services Advisory Center at (602) 240-2000 in Phoenix, (520) 239-3100 in Tucson, or (800) 621-3778 outside Phoenix and Tucson.

## ASRS Board & Committee Meetings

### ASRS Board of Trustees

Friday, July 20, 2007, 8:30 a.m. – ASRS Phoenix office, 3300 N. Central Ave., 10<sup>th</sup> floor Board Room.

### Investment Committee

Tuesday, July 10, 2007, 5:30 p.m. – ASRS Phoenix office, 3300 N. Central Ave., 14<sup>th</sup> floor.

### External Affairs Committee

Friday, October 5, 10 a.m. – ASRS Phoenix office, 3300 N. Central Ave., 14<sup>th</sup> floor.

### Operations Committee

To be scheduled.

*Note: All Board & Committee meetings are open to the public and your attendance is encouraged. Schedules, agendas and minutes of meetings are posted on our website and are available at our Phoenix and Tucson offices.*